

DECEMBER 1950 • Vol. 8, No. 12



# NEWS



# Capitol news

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FOND FAREWELLS were said to Ray Anthony last month as he and his band headed for the Hotel Statler in New York City after a rousing run at the Hollywood Palladium. Here Ray adieu blonde Dottie O'Brien, whose record of "Tear It Down" was released on the very same day that Anthony's "Autumn Leaves" came out. Dottie is picking up new fan clubs every month as a result of her records and TV appearances in Hollywood. Frank DeVol's orchestra followed the Anthony gang at the Pall.

## Dave Dexter's Surface Noise

18

45

33 1/2



### Year-End Notes From An Old Desk Drawer

Must have been nearly a decade ago that this column pegged Helen O'Connell as the prettiest, nicest and most personable singer in the biz. Now, after a long retirement, she's back sparkling Frank DeVol's new crew with her songs. Opinion 10 years later: easily the prettiest, nicest, m. p. singer in the biz—and Mrs. Dex concurs. . . . Norm Granz wasn't driven to it by (1) ulcers or (2) tax agents the other night at the Los Angeles Shrine during his "Jazz At the Philharmonic" hassel. He simply ran up to a hot mike, pointed at the audience and snarled, "you idiots, shut up" because he didn't like the way some of the younger patrons were shouting requests. . . . Dave Cavanaugh's Curbstone Cops, their billy clubs neatly shined, will open at the chi-chi Chi-Chi in Palm Springs Dec. 2 after touring Texas.

### Stole My Stuff, Calloway Charges

More glib than ever after 21 years as a top name, Cab Calloway pulled no punches the other day answering questions shot him by Hal Morris of the L. A. Mirror. "Bop?" snorted Cabell. "Never liked it. Never liked it in the least. Bop snatched too many of the words I coined and messed 'em up. Dixie? Dixie will live. It's simplified. It's understandable. People like music that sets their feet tapping. Who knows, maybe the old days might return."

### The Strange Case of Mr. May

Nobody's mentioned the curious twist in the career of Pittsburgh's poor but honest Billy May, in the 1930's one of the hottest horn men this side of Berigan. He's the composer, arranger and conductor on a half-dozen of the world's best-selling children's albums now, and his latest non-juve effort, "Peace of Mind" with Doc Sam Hoffman's erotic theremin, is regarded as the most subtle, smoochiest chunk of biscuiting to ignite a turntable. Also, Billy's making money now. . . . Melvin Torme will do his imitations at the Las Vegas Thunderbird Dec. 7-20.

### Bosox' Pesky To Become Jock

Harry James added another hoss to his racing stable. . . . Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis have "arrived" for real—everybody's suing 'em. . . . Lee Wiley, much unappreciated these days, quit H'wood to chant with Bobby Hackett at the Chi Blue Note. . . . Boston listeners will hear a new jockey this month via WBMS: Johnny Pesky, third-sacker for the Red Sox. "I'll be doing something I like and they tell me that's half the battle on any job you're doing—Dom DiMaggio and I are more interested in music than any of the guys on the team." Pesky was hired by WBMS' George Lasker. . . . Personal nomination for the best comedian of '50—Steve Allen, who also plays Garner-like piano. He's on KNX-CBS every midnight and has been for three hilarious years. . . . Gene Norman is being filmed as emcee of those musical shorts Lou Snader is turning out, by the hundreds, for TV. . . . Kay Starr abruptly moved all her personal belongings from H'wood back to Memphis. Sorry, no punch line, but happy holidays from Sunset & Vine!

CAPITAL NEWS

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# Lee, Barbour Bow At L. A. Grove

## No Nights Off For Wife-Hubby Team

When Peggy Lee and Dave Barbour opened on Nov. 28 at the Cocoanut Grove of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, the famous room with the potted palms went on a seven nights a week schedule for the first time in years.

Peggy, featured last month on Ed Sullivan's TV show over the CBS web in New York with her husband and his guitar, will headline the Grove's show for three weeks. And unlike previous attractions there, Peg and Dave will not have a night off.

The Grove also is presenting the new orchestra of Tony Cabot. A trumpet player, Cabot hails from Chicago and has been active in non-jazz circles for more than a decade.

The Barbour duo, after closing at the Grove on Dec. 18, will refuse engagements until after the first of the year. They want to spend the Christmas holidays at their Los Angeles home with daughter Nicki, now 7.

Although tested at several picture studios, no new roles have been announced for Peg since her appearance in Paramount's "Mr. Music" with Bing Crosby.



OFF THE stand, at their Los Angeles residence, Peggy Lee and Dave Barbour cavort in the kitchen before taking off for the famed Cocoanut Grove of the Hotel Ambassador where they opened Nov. 28 and will be featured nightly through Dec. 18. It is Peggy's first Hollywood appearance since Ciro's more than a year ago.

## No Kenton Concert Tour; Dance Band Doing Great

Stan Kenton has definitely dropped his plan to launch a second "Innovations" tour in early 1951 with a large orchestra of 40 musicians featuring strings.

In fact, in advising his musicians and bookers that the 1951 concert tour had been postponed until September of next year, Stan implied that it may never come off—his dance band is doing very well on the road and he sees no profit in dropping it for a return to the concert stage.

Now at the Rustic Cabin in Inglewood Cliffs, N. J., just outside New York City, on an engagement which will run through Dec. 10, Kenton is immersed in his dance crew and is once again creating new compositions and arrangements designed for dancing. He has even accepted a five-week run at the Hollywood Palladium starting next March 5—see details on page 5 of this issue.

It marks a complete turnaround for big Stan. Less than a year ago, he indicated he would never play for dancers again.

## Only 3 Musicals Before Cameras

Hollywood's film factories had only three musicals shooting as November ended.

RKO is in the middle of its first song-and-dance flick in more than a year with Tony Martin, Janet Leigh and Gloria De Haven all featured in "Two Tickets To Broadway." MGM is shooting "Rich, Young and Pretty" with Jane Powell and Vic Damone, and "Show Boat," with Kathryn Grayson, Howard Keel and Ava Gardner. Warner Brothers just finished "Lullaby of Broadway" with Doris Day and Gene Nelson.



EVER GET to wondering just how many dollars worth of records are sold by one of the major companies? Capitol's financial statement for the first nine months of 1950 provide an illuminating answer. From Jan. 1 through September, according to Cap's president, Glenn E. Wallichs, the firm sold \$8,883,204 worth of platters, compared to \$7,719,231 during the first nine months of 1949.

Now, consider the fact that more records are sold within the October, November and December period than any other quarter and you get an idea of how much money is spent, with just one of the "Big Four" phono labels, in a single year. Pretty fair for a business that, in 1933, was regarded as dead and forgotten.

Visiting in Hollywood in November was 28-year-old Joachim-Ernst Berendt of Germany, one of the best-known authorities on jazz in Europe and prominent over there as a disc jockey. Berendt's recent "Der Jazz" book, in German, recalls how Hitler banned the word and the music for a decade. But a lot of the Reich's youngsters sure must have snuck out in the barn and played American records anyway — Berendt admits he did.

Andrews Sisters returning to Hollywood after appearing at the Chase Hotel, St. Louis, for two weeks. Jerry Gray and his band also are due back after a run at Dailey's Meadowbrook in New Jersey.

Russ Morgan drew still another holdover ticket at the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles.

Al Jolson's will, as revealed by Variety mag, specified a bequest

to John Steinberg — the secret recipe for Joley's famous salve. Al for years claimed it was a sure cure for the itch.

Sharkey and his Kings of Dixieland, a recent click in Los Angeles, will depart their New Orleans stomping grounds late in December to headline the floorshows nightly in the swank Empire room of the Palmer House in Chicago. The engagement, first Sharkey has ever played in the Windy City, also points up the first jazz attraction to be booked by the Palmer House in 25 years.

Herman Hover, who operates Ciro's plush bistro in H'wood, became a disc jockey Nov. 15 over the Liberty net. Hover airs for an hour every night from his club, but ironically, no station in the Los Angeles area broadcasts his program.

Top-calibre professional songwriters have their troubles with publishers, too. And because they are tired of getting the brush-off, Ben Oakland, Don Raye, Gene DePaul, Bob Russell, Hal Spina and Paul Webster—all have had numbers on the Hit Parade several times—formed their own company last month in Hollywood. It is tagged Hub Music Publishing Co.

Winner of the Frank Devol "Name My Band" contest was Mrs. H. L. Davis, Dodge City, Kas., who submitted "Music of the Century" as a slogan. Devol sent her \$500 cash. He also divided an additional \$500 among Frank Frost, Lyle Gaston, Gail Bank and John Glovier of KGAR, the disc-whirlers who announced the contest and were responsible for Mrs. Davis entering it.



THE FRENCH accent on beauty characterizes MGM's newest dance star, Leslie Caron. Just 18, she's got the lead in "An American in Paris" opposite Gene Kelly, who discovered her in Paris. And although she is noted in Europe as a ballerina, she's never before performed for the camera.

Vido Musso and his big-toned tenor pipe are the new attraction at the Orchid Room in Los Angeles. And Musso's fans may look forward to January, when his great tenor solos with Stan Kenton's current dance band on Capitol are released.

Jimmie Skinner booked for the "Grand Ole Opry" broadcast of Dec. 2 in Nashville; also appearances on the Hank Williams, Roy Acuff and Ernest Tubb shows.

Kay Starr (photo on Page 9) will winter in the east; she has no west coast engagements planned.

Mort Ruby, ex of the King Cole Trio, heading his own personal management office on the Sun-set Strip.

## Palladium Signs 3 Orks; Beneke Next

The Hollywood Palladium, via its general manager Earl Vollmer, has signed three bands for future engagements following the current run of Frank DeVol's unit.

Tex Beneke, another of the "Glenn Miller style" outfits, will follow DeVol at the Pally for five weeks beginning Dec. 19. Beneke's big crew has played the Palladium before.

### Kenton Due March 5

Then comes Ralph Flanagan, whom Vollmer describes as "still another of the Glenn Miller types." Virtually unknown on the Pacific coast, Flanagan will have to undergo a mammoth publicity campaign incorporating television, radio, billboards and newspaper ads. The Flanagan group has never appeared in California, and will perform for four weeks commencing Jan. 23.

Vollmer, on the other hand, gleefully announced that for the first time in five years, Stan Kenton and his powerful ork will again appear at the Palladium. The tall "Artistry in Rhythm" pianist will open on March 5 for five weeks, and Stan, like most bands which sign for the job, will garner a 50-50 split of all admission tabs in addition to a guarantee.

### DeVol Doing "Fine"

It was at the Palladium in December of 1941 that Kenton first landed a "prestige" job with the young and hungry band he had formed just a few months earlier at Balboa Beach. He later played the spot several times with great success.

DeVol's new dance band is making a "fine" impression on its first job, Vollmer said.

Helen O'Connell, in particular, has helped establish the DeVol band at the box-office. And DeVol's new hair-wig is regarded as an added attraction.



BIG WELCOME was accorded Frank DeVol (left) at his Nov. 14 opening at the Hollywood Palladium. Virtually everybody in west coast music circles turned out, including Doris Day (right) and the two singing Ewing sisters in center, who chirp on Cap records and perform every night over KTTV with Wild Bill Anson on television.

## U.S. Treasury Will Beam All-Dixie Show Dec. 31

Uncle Sam bypassed the longhairs and boppers alike and elected to make it a Dixieland New Year's eve program to be sponsored by the U. S. Treasury Department for broadcast over every radio station in America Dec. 31.

Nate Colwell of the Treasury clan rounded up every famous Dixie musician on the west coast for the transcribed program, which was recorded on tape last month at the CBS studios in Hollywood. The lineup of talent includes Nappy Lamare, Zutty Singleton, Red Nichols, Ted Vesely, George Van Epps, Country Washburne, Eddie Miller, Joe Venuti, Babe Russin, Joe Rushton, Phil Stephens, Hoagy Carmichael, Manny Klein, Ziggy Elman, Charlie Teagarden, Lou McGarity, Matty Matlock, Ben Pollack, Skeets Herfurt and many more.

## Goff Drops Banjo For Movie Role

Good-natured Harper Goff, a favorite with west coast musicians for his energetic banjo-thumping as a member of the Firehouse Five Plus Two combo, is more than a mere banjo player. William Wyler, last month in Hollywood, signed Goff to play the role of a Bowery flophouse owner in Wyler's production of "Carrie" at Paramount in which Laurence Olivier and Jennifer Jones are co-starred. And in addition to that, Goff is busy as production illustrator at RKO on the Howard Hawks "The Thing" movie.

In his spare time, Goff illustrates stories for national mags.

# Western Hits

'POT O' GOLD' - Jimmy Wakely

'ALIMONY' - Tex Williams

'I'VE GOT THE CRAZIEST FEELING'  
- Ramblin' Jimmie Dolan

'HUMPTY DUMPTY BOOGIE'  
- Hank Thompson

'SPANISH POLKA' - Ole Rasmussen

'SHOTGUN BOOGIE' - Tennessee Ernie

'THAT LOWDOWN RUNNIN' AROUND'  
- Gene O'Quin

'THE STATUE IN THE BAY'  
- Joe Allison

'HE MAY BE YOUR MAN' - Ann Jones

'I BRUNG YOU A PRESENT'  
Bucky Tibbs + Deuce Spriggen

'HOT ROD RACE' - Ramblin' Jimmie Dolan

Available on either 78 or 45 rpm

## CAPITOL NEWS

# Frantic Fans Mob Nellie Lutcher; She Smashes British Theater Records

By DICK ROWE  
British Recording Executive

The time is 1 o'clock in the morning, I'm writing this in a corner seat of the "Flying Scotsman" as it speeds non-stop through the night over its 400-mile journey from Glasgow to London.

I'd prefer to be in a sleeper, but such luxuries in this country are reserved for V.I.P.'s and Civil Servants!

### "Locusts" Swarm Lutcher

In order that my story be completely coherent, let's go back to Sunday, September 24th.

On that day I traveled down to Southampton with England's premier disc jockey, Jack Jackson, to meet Nellie Lutcher.

The journey back to London was quite something. Every well known entertainment columnist from the National Press was aboard the train. During the whole two-hour journey they constantly threw questions at Nellie . . . how glad she must have been when London loomed in sight! But wait! I hopped off the train first to organize transport to the Mayfair Hotel, where a party was being held to welcome her to England; coming down the platform peering in every window were a mass of teenagers—a swarm of locusts would be more appropriate. Eventually we all escaped, but on arriving at the Hotel—more fans . . .

### Sold Out, Police Worried

The party was great fun, and Nellie certainly looked very happy surrounded by many celebrities, who for two years previous had heard her records played on the air for the first time in this country by Jack Jackson, and had immediately become fans of the "Real Gone Gal."

It was a very tired me who at 12 o'clock waved goodbye to Jack and Nellie as they set forth on yet another train journey, to Liverpool, where tomorrow they would commence a vaudeville tour together. Within a couple of days Jackson was on the phone to me with the news that Nellie had set Liverpool alight—the theatre was sold out for the week, and all previous records had been broken!!

How were the personal appearances going, I asked? In reply I received the taut remark: "Don't be funny, it's a matter of life or death getting Nellie from the hotel to the theatre. The police won't let us make any personal appearances; they say they don't want the town wrecked."

The next week (last week) Nellie played the Empire Theatre, Birmingham, the great industrial city where the Austin cars are made. By this time, news of Nellie's success was traveling fast, and on Wednesday England's No. 1 impresario, Mr. Val Parnell, sped North to see for himself "what goes."

### Back To Scotland Again

Things by now were moving so fast and getting so big that on Wednesday evening I dropped everything and caught the midnight train for the same 400-mile journey to Glasgow.

It's quite a fantastic story. No one, with the possible exception of Danny Kaye, has caused such a furore in British vaudeville, and to think this is going on for another five weeks, whew! Well, that's the last thing Nellie said as I bid her goodbye—whew! That's what I say, too. I'm tired. I guess I'll try and get a few hours' sleep before we hit London.

That Lutcher!



NELLIE LUTCHER, whose theater appearances in England last month virtually brought about riots, poses with Jack Jackson, the British disc jockey who is famed throughout Europe and who was first to spin Nellie's discs abroad. Dick Rowe's airmail story from London tells just how the "Real Gone Gal" stood England on its ear—only Danny Kaye has equalled her in popularity.

## Lamare's Hatters Head For Frisco

Nappy Lamare and his Strawhat Seven, concluding a long run as intermission ark at the Palladium in Hollywood, opened at Tops in San Diego on Nov. 28 for two weeks, to be followed by a run in San Francisco which will run into January. Brad Gowans, valve trombone, and Joe Graves, trumpet, are featured with Lamare. The band will fly into Los Angeles every Monday night to appear on the "Dixie Showboat" KTLA television program.

## Muggsy in L. A.

Muggsy Spanier, his plunger and cornet opened at the Tiffany Club in Los Angeles in mid-November with hardly any advance notice or publicity. Floyd Bean is at the piano in the Spanier combo, an out and out Dixie unit resembling the memorable old Spanier Ragtime combo of 1939-40. It appeared likely that the group would continue at the spot until Dec. 10.



**PROMINENT IN** the entertainment spotlight as 1950 nears its end, Kay Starr is still heading up (at right) with three top-selling discs to her credit. Booked to headline the show at the New York Paramount Theater starting Jan. 3, Kay is the first Capitol artist to have the first three best-sellers to herself . . . Johnny Mercer, in western regalia above, has spent most of his time in recent months in New York. And his discing of "Goofus" also is breaking out as a smash—it's a burlesque on bebop, in reality . . . Woody Herman, left, is leading his swinging dance band through the eastern states on a long tour. It's still one of the most exciting aggregations around, although Woody since he became a maestro in 1936, really never has had a mediocre crew behind his clarinet-alto noodlings . . . And the chummy trio below comprises Les Paul, Mayor Morrison of New Orleans and Capitol sales expert R. D. Comstock, Jr., in the throes of a presentation ceremony which found the mayor lauding Paul for his sock "Nola" biscuit—"Nola" stands for New Orleans, y'see? . . . Les Brown and Gloria De Haven, back safely from Korea, rehearse a Bob Hope broadcast together. These, then, are names in the news this Christmas season . . .

1950



# Hank Thompson Survives Plane Crash

## But Now He Goes By Station Wagon

By BEEP ROBERTS

Hank Thompson, taking off in a private plane last month at Clovis, N. M., narrowly escaped death when the tiny ship swept into trees and a power line and plunged to the ground. Thompson, en route to Dalhart, Tex., on a personal appearance tour with his manager, John Hitt, and Kermit Baca, drummer, picked himself up, patched himself and his pals with a couple dozen Band-Aids, and went on to Dalhart in another plane.

Hank will spend December traveling through the Southwest, but now he and his buddies are riding in station wagons.

### Wakely To New York

Jimmy Wakely treks off to New York this month for TV shots with Bob Hope, with whom Jim toured in Korea recently, and Ken Murray. Jimmy also will do his "Waitin' For Wakely" jockey show over the ABC web from Manhattan. His record of "Silver Bells" with Margaret Whiting is one of the season's big hits.

Forming a film company of their own, Tex Williams, Smokey Rogers and Deuce Spriggins will make their own westerns for television.



new movie, with Gene Autry, this month.

Merle Travis, back on the coast from his long tour, made 10 films for Lou Snader Telescriptions—five westerns and five folk subjects with that great Travis guitar plenty prominent.

Andy Parker and the Plainsmen will be playing for private Christmas parties this month in the Los Angeles area. On Christmas day, Andy expects to be host to his relatives from Kansas, Tennessee Ernie and wife, Betty, will spend the day with her family in San Bernardino, and Tex and Dottie Ritter are expecting their relatives from Arizona.

Ole Rasmussen just moved into his new house in Compton, Cal. He is making plans for his annual Christmas party for underprivileged children, at McDonnell's Ballroom, with many a name artist helping out.

Ann Jones, now in Florida on tour, will spend Christmas day with her parents in Hutchinson, Kas.

From far-off Shreveport, in that good Louisiana bayou country, comes the flash that Leon Payne and his Mrs. are parents of a new son, who roared in just an ounce or two shy of eight pounds. The Paynes dubbed him Leon Roger Payne, Jr.

Merry Christmas to all of you from all of us here in California. And that goes from all the western artists out here, too!

**IT WILL** be a merry Christmas this year for 19-year-old Gene O'Quin, who a year ago was a struggling singer and guitarist in Dallas. During 1950, young Gene has become a national favorite with a series of Capitol biscuits, and he's now featured on radio and TV in Hollywood. He started music at 9—and he's still climbing.

Smiley Burnette's famous horse, Ring-Eye, made his first personal appearance in Hollywood last month at Grauman's Chinese Theater. He and Smiley start a

# Director Rates Opera Stars As Best Jokers, Practically Speaking

The most incurable practical jokers in the world are, in this order, opera singers, professional baseball players and, a poor third, actors.

That's what the man said, the man being Richard Thorpe, who has worked with all types of people in his many years in and out of show business. Thorpe now—and has for a good many years—works as a director at MGM Studios.

### Driven To It, He Says

"All show folks," Thorpe says, thinking back, "are somewhat inclined to the practical joke. The Hotfoot, the Snipe Hunt, the Badger Fight and the Brakeman's Wife—these are the standards. But there are many variations and I think the opera singers are the most inventive when it comes to conceiving laughs."

"Maybe it is because the opera itself is so sombre, so heavy-handed, so bombastic, and so dramatic that its artists have to blow off steam via ribbing as a matter of maintaining their balance."

### Rookie Ruins Soupbone

Thorpe has been working with a lot of opera singers, including Mario Lanza, Dorothy Kirsten, Blanche Thebom, Jarmila Novotna, and Teresa Celli, on "The Great Caruso," which he just finished for producer Joe Pasternik at MGM.

These particular artists weren't involved in any special ribbing during the shooting of the picture, but Thorpe admits that that may be due at least partially to the fact that as long as they were before the movie cameras they were primarily movie actors rather than opera stars.

"All professions," the director says, "have their own little professional gags. For generations typographers have been showing 'type lice' to printer's devils. Mechanics since time began have been sending apprentices over to borrow 'left-handed monkey-wrenches.'

"Many a baseball rookie has spent a sleepless night holding his arm in a Pullman berth clothes hammock because his new teammates convinced him the hammock was there to protect his pitching arm.

### Watch Out For Jackass!

"But with opera singers, the gags run more toward having a raw fish in the mitt while clasping hands with soprano while singing a heart-breaking farewell onstage."

"Most opera kidding has a set of game rules that simmer down to practical jokes applied during a performance, preferably on a sucker who is performing at the moment of its execution. If possible the sucker should be in the middle of an important aria."

"Today, an opera performer who happens to mention in a casual conversation with his fellow artists that he is fond of riding horseback, may well expect to find a jackass and two bales of hay in his hotel bed when he goes to retire two hours later."

### World Jazz Fair To Open in Paris Soon

A small delegation of musicians from New York, Chicago and Hollywood is expected to leave for Paris in early December to participate in the First World Jazz Fair sponsored by Charles Delaunay and a group of French hot music fans.



ONCE FEATURED with Tom Dorsey's band, briefly, as an orchid oriole, Marie McDonald now is presented again as a singer in Republic's "Hit Parade of 1951" musical. She plays opposite John Carroll and despite complications, things end up well for both.

# Kaye Offer Sets New British Mark

Danny Kaye has been offered the fabulous sum of \$240,000 to perform for 12 weeks, next summer, at the Palladium in London.

The comedian on two previous engagements in England racked up all-time records, and the offer is said to be the most generous ever made to any performer for a British engagement. Kaye's run, if he accepts, would feature the British Festival next June, July and August. He's now making a film in Hollywood.

# Fidelitone

**MUTED STYLUS NEEDLES** \$100 each

needles for use in muted type cartridges

PERMO, Inc., Chicago 26



DINAH SHORE will remain in the cast but Jane Russell and Marlene Dietrich have been added to replace the late Al Jolson in the big-money musical which Norm Krasna and Jerry Wald will soon produce at RKO—and which was written up in this column last month just six days before Jolson died.

Cap News was on the press and rolling—beyond recall—when the beloved Joley was felled in San Francisco. And because no other male could handle the original role, Krasna and Wald have since switched the entire story to a fem angle—how the gals went out and entertained American fighting men in the various theaters of war. The pic also has a new (and tentative) title, "Let's See the Girls."

Nellie Lutcher, returning to the U.S. from Europe this month, will spend the holidays with her son and sisters at her Los Angeles home and then open, on Jan. 3, at El Rancho Vegas in Las Vegas.

Ray Robbins, the trumpeter and singer whose band has quietly but consistently been building in popularity through the Midwest, signed with GAC and opened at the New Yorker Hotel in Manhattan on Nov. 16 on an engagement which will go for at least 13 weeks. Robbins will air three times a week over CBS, including a U.S. Treasury program. It's Ray's biggest break.

Hal Wallis will start "Junior" on Dec. 4, with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis featured. Story has been cleffed by Cy Howard. The movie also will feature Polly Bergen, coast canary. Wallis makes his pictures independently and releases them through Paramount.



LANA TURNER looks more like herself in Metro's "Mr. Imperium," in which Ezio Pinza is co-starred in Technicolor. Lana, in the flicker, sings with a touring cowboy band. Special songs for the soundtrack have been composed by Harold (Stormy Weather) Arlen and Dorothy Fields. Lana's big song is "My Love And My Mule" which this photo depicts more than somewhat.

## Armstrong, His Band Will Enjoy Christmas Holidays in California

Sweeping back into sunny Southern California on his first visit in nearly a year, Louis Armstrong and his All-Stars are prepared to open at the Oasis in Los Angeles on Dec. 15 for a two-weeker. The booking means that Satchmo' and his men will

spend the holidays in the land of citrus this year—and there will be no White Christmas, for a change.

Backing Armstrong's golden horn will be Jack Teagarden, trombone; Barney Bigard, clarinet; Cosy Cole, drums; Arvell Shaw, string bass, and Velma Middleton, vocals.

The Oasis, located near the USC campus, has consistently booked top jazz attractions through 1950 but, in recent months, has taken a box-office beating with several of its headliners. Armstrong is getting the highest fee ever paid by the Oasis to an attraction.

Martin and Lewis arrived from New York a couple of weeks ago to prepare for the flicker.

The singing Starlighters will be seen doing a specialty vocal routine in Judy Canova's forthcoming "Honeychile" motion pic, to be released in early '51 by Republic.



LIONEL HAMPTON  
In the L. A. Daily News

"When I started my band, I decided that God would be the leader, the arranger and the inspiration for my work. My faith has helped me. . . . I was once flying by plane to Los Angeles and, frankly, I'm scared of planes. I took out my Bible and started to read and the music came to me. I called it 'Flyin' Home' and of course it proved to be my biggest hit."

WALTER WINCHELL  
In His Column

"Bing Crosby saves two newspaper clippings. They serve as reminders never to be hasty with interviewers or take himself seriously. The first is a notice of his first movie . . . in which he was not even mentioned . . . the other is a review of a film that starred Russ Columbo, regarded as his No. 1 competitor at the time . . . it said: 'Russ Columbo has a fine voice but he can't act as well as Bing Crosby, who can't act at all.'

H. ARTHUR BROWN  
Conductor, Tulsa Philharmonic  
(Via The Associated Press)

"Music is to Europe what baseball is to America. When I was in Vienna, Salzburg and Paris, I saw lines of people in front of auditoriums of some sort. These lines began forming as early as 7 a.m. All those people are interested in the fine arts and will attend performances at great personal sacrifice. Barbers and cab drivers wouldn't discuss batting averages as in this country, but they were authorities on arias, legatos and arabesques and tour jetes of the ballet."

Editor's Note: This publication contends that Detroit will win the next A. L. pennant.



FINGERS CARR snapped this candid photo of Margaret Whiting and her new daughter, Deborah, just three weeks after little Deb made her debut at Cedars of Lebanon in Los Angeles. Pappy is Lou Busch of Capitol Records, who arranges and conducts, too. Deborah is Maggie and Lou's first of a series, they say.



THEY ALL PLAYED RAGTIME, by Rudi Blech and Harriet Janis: Published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York, \$4.

It's getting so that in order to interest a publisher in anything pertaining to jazz, a writer must go back 30 or 40 years or more before he can land a nibble.

This latest effort, while competent from a documentary standpoint, runs on and on, through 272 pages, and through the careers of dozens of old-time ragtime pounders whose influence on jazz, or music, or art in general may have been somewhat overestimated by the two authors. A great amount of this material has been published previously, in Down Beat, in the Record Changer, in the old Jazz Information and in the London Jazz Journal.

Scott Joplin, James Scott, Tom Turpin, Louis Chauvin, Tony Jackson, Charlie Johnson, Percy Wrenrich and scores more all deserve recognition for their early achievements, but to overemphasize their efforts in the vast panoramic picture of American jazz is to slight hundreds of creative artists who contributed far more. Earl Hines, Waller, Ellington, Teddy Wilson, Tatum, Basie, Sullivan, Stacy, Mary Lou Williams, the Hendersons—is there really any comparison?

A pleasant book, nonetheless, for the serious-minded pianist and jazz fan.—Dexter.

## Sudden Illness Floors Les Paul

Les Paul was forced to drop everything on Nov. 13 when a sudden and unexplained illness, attributed to a heart ailment, kayoed him at his California residence. Doctors were holding him for observation as this issue of Cap News went to press.

## Torme, O'Connor Start TV Program

Myrna Torme and Patsy O'Connor will kick off their own television show this month over Los Angeles station KTSI. The girls will call it "The Gals in the Back Room" and they'll sing and gab, confidential style. Myrna is Melvin Torme's sister; Patsy is ditto to Donald O'Connor.

## No More Shows

When Billy Eckstine ends his current run at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, the spot will no longer feature nightly floorshows. For many years the hotel has been a top job for class nitery acts. Eckstine is getting \$2,500 a week in addition to half of all the cover charge fees over \$2,750 weekly.



FRANK DEVOL: Palladium.

TEX BENEKE: Palladium, opening on Dec. 19.

PEGGY LEE &amp; DAVE BARBOUR: Cocoanut Grove.

RED NICHOLS: Sardi's.

PETE DAILY: Royal Room.

MUGGSY SPANIER: Tiffany Club.

TONY CABOT: Cocoanut Grove.

VIDO MUSSO: Orchid Room.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG: Oasis, opening Dec. 15.

MATTY MALNECK: Ciro's.

MARVIN ASH: Hangover Club.

ZUTTY SINGLETON: Club 47.

BEN POLLACK: Club Bayou.

RUSS MORGAN: Hotel Biltmore.

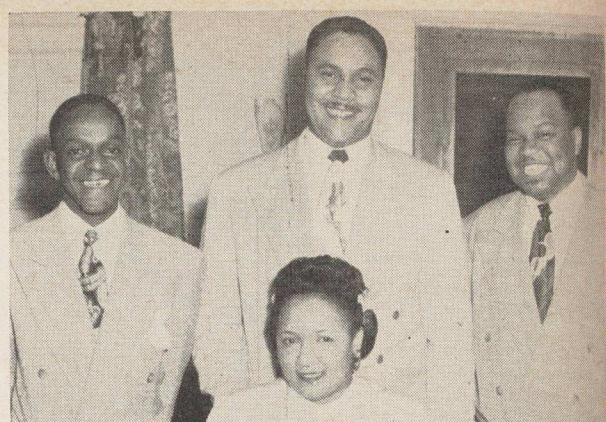
TED VESELY: Beverly Cavern.

MARVIN JOHNSON: 1841 Club.

PETE PONTRILLI: Figueroa Ballroom.

**MEET THE JOCKEY!**

BILL GORDON launched his spinning career on WHK in Cleveland as recently as last summer, but already he has attracted much comment throughout the Buckeye state as the "most cussed and discussed deejay in the state." Bill headed to the Ohio city from Memphis and, with admirable honesty, admits his big ambition is to become a star of television. He may be dug at 1420 on the dial, at odd hours, with an odd style which keeps you from spinning the nob elsewhere.



HERE'S THAT bouncing "Eight, Nine, Ten" girl, Charlotte Mansfield, with the three jazzmen who accompany her voice and hot piano on her current Cap record hit of the same title. Behind Charlotte are Cleophus Berry, bass; Pete McShann, drums, and Franz Bruce, alto. La Mansfield was found and recorded in Kansas City.

**'Sunny' Movie Brings \$25,000 Fee For Laine**

Frankie Laine will snare a fat check for \$25,000 for starring in his third movie at Columbia Studios, "Sunny Side Of the Street." The flicker is set to go in Hollywood in January.

Also pacted for the pic are Toni Arden, former band oriole who has been doing a single, recently at the Hollywood Mocambo, and Billy Daniels, a knockabout nitery tenor who suddenly became nationally popular this year via eastern television shows.

Laine, who just recently purchased the former residence of Martin Block in Encino, Cal., with his wife, the former Nan Grey, also appeared in "When You're Smiling" and "Make Believe Ballroom" for Columbia, both low-budget musicals which racked up heady profits in the nation's film houses.

Bob Crosby may also get a spot in "Sunny Side" and a couple of bands and acts also are being considered. Producer is Jonie Taps.

**Cole Eyes California Vacation**

The King Cole Trio will enjoy a 10-day vacation this month commencing the day after the group concludes a long stint at the New York Paramount Theater Dec. 18.

Cole and his men will fly to Hollywood, vacation over Christmas, then resume work on Dec. 28 at the Riverside Club in Las Vegas for two weeks. Combo comprises Cole, Irv Ashby, Jack Costanza and Joe Comfort.

**Progressive Broadcasting System Tees Off**

Inaugural broadcasts of the Progressive Broadcasting System were aired for the first time Nov. 26 from Hollywood. Larry Finley is president of the new web, which will feature several jockey shows and Hollywood radio, recording and picture stars.

**Hits****'I YUST GO NUTS AT CHRISTMAS'****'YINGLE BELLS'** - Yogi Yorgesson**'AUTUMN LEAVES'****'MR. ANTHONY'S BOOGIE'**

Ray Anthony

**'TENNESSEE WALTZ'** - Les Paul**'OH, BABE'** - **'EVERYBODY'S SOMEBODY'S FOOL'** - Kay Starr**'CHRISTMAS CANDY'****'SILVER BELLS'** - Whiting-Wakely**'FROSTY THE SNOWMAN'** - Nat**'LITTLE CHRISTMAS TREE'** - King Cole**'TIME OUT FOR TEARS'** - King Cole**'BEYOND THE REEF'** - Whiting**'A BUSHEL AND A PECK'** Wakely**'ORANGE COLORED SKY'** - Nat Cole Kenton

All on either 78 or 45 rpm

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## Meet The Freshmen



HOTTEST of the new combos to make a dent in the world of music is the Four Freshmen, a quartet which has just made its debut on Capitol platters with "Mr. B's Blues" and "Then I'll Be Happy." Left to right, the young aggregation is comprised of Hal Kratz, bass and trumpet; Russ Barbour, drums; Don Barbour, guitar, and Bob Flanagan, trombone and bass. Stan Kenton discovered them back in Indiana last spring and sent them off to Hollywood and a waxing contract. They get wild sounds by doubling and tripling voices and horns.